



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 6.2.2014  
C(2014) 647 final

Mr George Crin Laurențiu Antonescu  
President of the Senat  
Calea 13 Septembrie nr. 1-3, sector 5  
RO – 050711 BUCHAREST

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senat for its Opinion concerning the Communication "Preparing for the 2014 European elections: further enhancing their democratic and efficient conduct" {COM(2013) 126 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the Opinion, which positively assesses and supports the objectives announced in the Communication, notably to reinforce legitimacy of the EU decision-making process, to strengthen the link between EU citizens and the democratic process of the Union and ultimately, to foster a European public space. A Recommendation<sup>1</sup>, adopted together with the Communication, has called on Member States, on European and on national political parties to take concrete measures in view of these objectives.*

*By recommending to Member States and to political parties to ensure that citizens are informed of the links between national and European political parties, the Commission aims at enhancing the transparency of the European elections and at offering citizens a choice between meaningful political options on European issues. The recommendation for European political parties and national political parties to announce the candidate they support for the function of President of the Commission will contribute to strengthening the legitimacy of both the European Parliament and Commission.*

*The Commission has also welcomed the resolution of the European Parliament on improving the practical arrangements for the holding of the European elections in 2014 of 4 July 2013<sup>2</sup>, which stressed the need of an electoral campaign based on European party platforms and programmes, and insisted that political parties at all levels should adopt democratic and transparent procedures selecting the candidates for the Commission presidency.*

*The Commission is fully aware of the importance of further efforts to inform citizens on their EU rights and on the connections between political processes at national and EU level. In its EU Citizenship report 2013 "EU citizens: your rights, your future"<sup>3</sup>, the Commission*

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<sup>1</sup> C (2013) 1303 final

<sup>2</sup> P7\_TA-PROV(2013)0323

<sup>3</sup> COM (2013) 269 final

*announced that it would further promote EU citizens' awareness of their EU citizenship rights by producing and promoting the dissemination of a handbook presenting these EU rights in clear and simple language (action 12).*

*Further measures, as underlined in the Opinion, have been taken with a view to streamline procedures linked to the implementation of EU citizens' electoral rights: it was made less burdensome for Union citizens to participate as candidates in the European elections, notably through new arrangements laid down in Directive 2013/1/EU, adopted on a proposal of the Commission; the burden on the national administrations linked to the implementation of these rights has also been addressed through the above Recommendation of the Commission.*

*The Commission would like to thank the Senat for the information provided on measures taken at national level with a view to transposing Directive 2013/1/EU and to giving effect to the Commission's recommendations on the European Parliament elections. The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*